

Families Needed For Operation Housecall

You don't have to be a professional educator or a doctor to help teach tomorrow's physicians about what it is like to live with a developmental disability, or to have a child with special needs. All you have to do is participate in Operation Housecall.

Operation Housecall is a collaborative effort between Area Board XI and the University of California, Irvine (UCI) College of Medicine. Initiated in 2001, it is aimed at improving medical school education by increasing students' understanding about the lives and medical needs of children and adults with developmental disabilities. The program enlists both adults with developmental disabilities who live independently and parents of children

with special needs to educate first year medical students about the unique challenges they face in accessing medical care.

"No teaching experience is necessary," said Scarlett von Thenen who is in charge of Operation

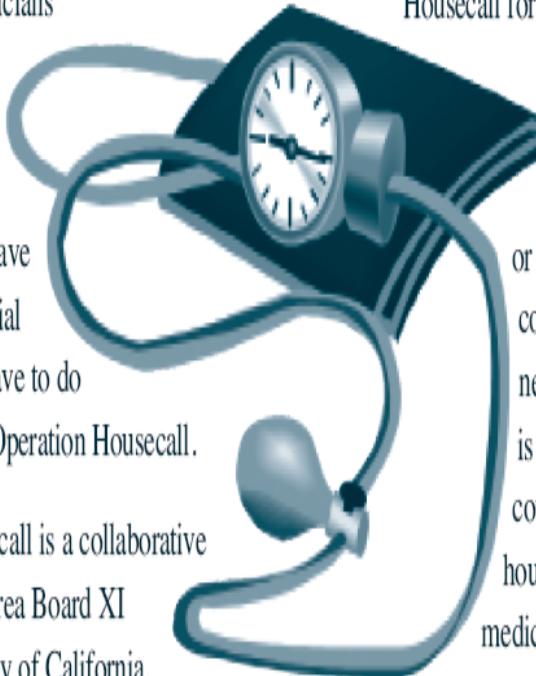
Housecall for Area

Board XI.

"All that a family or adult consumer needs to do is spend a couple of hours with a medical student who will come to

their home and speak with them. The student will be eager to learn from you about your family's experiences."

Medical students who participate in the program report learning a great deal from the families and individuals who "teach" in the program — some have even called the experience inspiring.



If you are interested in participating in Operation Housecall, call Scarlett von Thenen with Area Board XI at (714) 558-4404, ext. 3. She can tell you more about the program and send you an application.

Save the Date for Spotlight!

Be sure to mark your calendar and tell your friends! The 2007 Regional Center of Orange County Spotlight Awards is scheduled for Friday, October 5. And, we have a new location – this year's event will be at the Hyatt Regency Irvine. Entries must be postmarked by August 31, 2007, so download the nomination package from RCOC's Web site at www.rcocdd.com or look for the package that will be included with the next issue of *Dialogue*.

Note for consumers: If you would like help filling out the nomination form, please contact your RCOC service coordinator.